Road accidents in Kerala

896. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of lives are lost due to road accidents on the National Highways and State Highways of Kerala;

(b) if so, the number of such accidents and loss of lives during the last three years, district-wise and year-wise;

(c) whether maintenance work of the National Highways and State highways were done in time;

(d) whether there is any plan to rubberise the National Highways and State Highways in Kerala; and

(e) if so, the expenditure per km. for the above and the advantage compared to the conventional road maintenance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) and (b) The total number of road accidents and persons killed in these accidents on all roads in the Kerala during the last three years are given below:

Year	Road Accidents	Persons Killed
1998	32837	2524
1999	33977	2574
2000	37072	2710

The District wise data on road accidents is not compiled by this Ministry.

(c) Maintenance works for National Highways are taken up in a phased manner depending upon their *inter-se*-priority and availability of funds. Maintenance of State Highways is a State subject.

(d) and (e) As per the guidelines of the Ministry, Instructions have been issued to the State to use rubberized bitumen for at least 10% length of periodical renewal to be carried out and also in project works for the National Highways. The advantages of rubberized bitumen are (i) lower susceptibility to temperature variations (ii) higher resistance to deformations/wear and tear

(iii) better adhesion between aggregates and binder (iv) increase in fatigue life (v) resistance in reflective cracking. The cost of bituminous layer with rubberized bitumen as used for the works under Improvement of Riding quality Programme in Kerala is about Rs. 7.00 lakhs per km.

National Highway Status to Shimla-Chadhgaon Highway

†897. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to give status of National Highway to Shimla-Chadhgaon Highway on the basis of norms laid in this regard; and

(b) if so, whether Government would sanction the requisite amount for the same during the year 2002-2003?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) At present there is no proposal to convert the Shimla-Chadhgaon Highway into National Highway.

(b) Does not arise.

Progress of National Highways Development Project

898. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to levy additional cess on petrol and diesel for developing road infrastructure; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the other steps proposed to expedite slow progress of the National Highways Development Project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) and (b) Resource mobilization for developing road infrastructure is a continuous process. Levy of cess on petrol and diesel is one of the options for resource mobilization. Progress of National Highways Development Project is on schedule.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.